

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC WORKSHOP
DOWNIEVILLE, CA
MARCH 7, 2007

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

QUESTIONS

1. What do you mean by preservation of working landscapes in the context of what SNC can offer? For example, my wife and I want to put our property into the hands of those who can manage it for public benefit, could SNC help with that?
2. Have you done any working on interface between State and Federal lands such as hang-ups between CEQA/NEPA requirements? For example: Fire control improvements. A lot of water is available in the county for helicopter dipping buckets. If we wanted to develop a water catchment pond for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to use, would SNC be an organization to help with streamlining environmental requirements or other project issues?
3. **As opposed to burning brush piles, how about funds for masticating or turning brush back into ground cover?** Is SNC an organization to approach about this?
4. Fuels reduction is part of a program, correct?
5. **Does SNC have the ability to loan staffing to assist with county projects?** For example, staff with direct expertise would be helpful, even environmental paperwork is often an onerous threshold for staff. When could you appeal to SNC for specialized expertise for conducting studies? We're overworked in this county.
6. **Regarding technical expertise: If a project needed an Environmental Impact Report, could SNC help with that?** Environmental Impact Reports are cost-prohibitive and can stall a project easily. Expertise on-staff?

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

COMMENTS

1. **One good thing would be if SNC staff is aware of other funding resources; that could be really helpful.**

GRANT GUIDELINES

QUESTIONS

1. **Some grants will be more competitive than others, it is a bi-level process? Can you explain that [referring to Competitive Grants and Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs)?]**
2. I see that comments are due by April 16, 2007. Is this a draft?

3. When do funds become available?
4. Procedure: Can organizations send applications straight to staff? There's no clearinghouse at the subregion? To staff and then on to the board?
5. **Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 2, "Eligible Projects": Seem to focus on protection or restoration. Seems to exclude large categories of projects. Is that fixed or can it change? Is maintenance eligible? Construction of new facilities eligible?** Trying to see how it fits in protection and restoration. For example: As long as there's an attachment to protection and restoration, if the county were to propose a subregional fish hatchery, would that be eligible?
6. Matching funds are not required, but can leveraging get you points?
7. **If a project looks like it will require multiple years how do you handle that?** Are you discouraging that? For example: Project enhancement of wildlife areas/mine reclamation typically is not one year. You don't get dinged on points for multi-year projects, do you?
8. **Example of a three phase project: Does first-year funding guarantee all phases will be funded, or does it just get a foot in the door?**
9. At the Board of Supervisors meeting we had a request for trail maintenance on U.S. Forest Service trails, is that possible for funding? If that project were a priority, how would that progress through the SNC program and how long would that take?
10. If using State funds, would one be compelled to pay prevailing wage? What about Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), them too? Don't want it to come out in a lawsuit after the fact.
11. Is there any way this process is skewed toward government agencies rather than NGOs or tribes?
12. Will there be after-the-fact audit requirements?
13. The Board of Supervisors has been gathering info over the past 18 months regarding projects SNC could fund. We have 5-10 that seem to have a lot of merit. Is that something to discuss with SNC staff and maybe whittle down further?
14. On subregional grants, are they administered by the subregion or by the Board? Need to clarify who is eligible.
15. Example: Want to pursue \$500,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund project. Can we pursue SNC funds to match that? Can you match State funds with State funds?
16. When looking at priorities, how much importance is placed on fee title acquisition? SNC has availability to fund agencies that can acquire in fee title; this is a concern at the local level.

GRANT GUIDELINES

COMMENTS

1. **SNC should mimic grant programs from the Department of Parks and Recreation. Doesn't favor small jurisdictions/organizations without capability of producing shining grant applications. Proposed points system makes it very difficult for those jurisdictions. Budget for applying for grants also an issue.**
2. SOGs should really help with capacity-building to help agencies get up to speed on level of applications the state requires.
3. **Regarding the approval process: want something integrated and coherent even if a project lasts multiple years, as most in mountain areas do. SNC should be able to see projects on a continuum.**
4. Seems like there should be some expectation of building a foundation and then moving from one stand-alone project to another. Should be easy for SNC to do in the long run. You don't want to go down a ski jump and realize you're not going to have a place to land. Consider how to deal with strong multiple-year projects as part of the evaluation criteria.
5. Mountain trail example: We want to make a one-time project to install water bars, that should easily fit in to the guidelines.
6. **The terms "protection and restoration" for all projects are far too limiting, don't seem to match projects in the Program Guidelines. Expand the language if possible.**
7. "Protection and restoration" is written by urban legislators. If SNC is to be effective, there is a need to let area legislators know what other priorities should be for funding expansion.
8. **Want to affirm that SOGs are great for small communities. SNC's proposal is entirely distinctive for Sierra Nevada, but the amount is impossibly small.**
9. **With \$9 million for the whole region and \$6 million/subregion, subregions are getting shorted. Shift some of the \$9 million to the \$6 million. Some of the small areas will be pretty challenged in getting funds.**
10. Seems like there is the opportunity in small communities for public agencies, NGOs, and tribal agencies to all get involved.
11. If you had a willing landowner there is nothing to stop SNC from working with them.

OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Susanville satellite offices: If some group had a Susanville project could they go straight to Susanville with it? Or do they have to go to Auburn?
2. Tim w/ Sierra County wants a staff meeting with SNC as soon as possible, wants to discuss a list of projects.
3. Will you be publishing a list of approved projects?

4. Will SNC be dependent on future Prop. 84s for funding? You can only go to the well so many times.
5. Do you have a list of key specialists and people whose appraisals you would accept?
6. When do the license plates come out?

SUBREGIONAL ISSUES RAISED

1. Working landscapes
2. Reducing wildfire risks
3. Maintenance
4. Mine reclamation
5. Wildlife habitat enhancement
6. Land acquisition
7. CEQA/NEPA compliance
8. Multiple-year projects